

February 28, 2003

Adult Softball League Coaches and Umpires:

RE: Base Running Rules & Regulations

Thus far, in the abbreviated first month of the season, base running conflicts have taken all the headlines:

***TEAM RETALIATES AFTER CATCHER BUMPED – 1 EJECTION***

***GENERAL MELEE AFTER FEMALE SECOND BASEMAN ROUGHED UP BY MALE RUNNER – 1 EJECTION***

***FEMALE SHORTSTOP SENT FLYING BY HEAD FIRST SLIDING MALE – SECOND DEGREE CONCUSSION***

Coaches, our rules about base running are very clear and I have included that portion of the League Rules on the back. What I want to stress is that **it is the responsibility of the base runner to avoid contact with the defensive player.** Further clarification:

- ❑ **If you slide or run past the bag and contact the defensive player you are considered out of control, for the situation, and in violation.**
- ❑ **If you are obviously going to be out (force play) or you prefer not to slide, give up the play and move out of the base path.**
- ❑ **Keep in mind – we all want to walk off the field and go to work the next day. As stated in the rules, the roll block or take out slide (intentional or unintentional) are illegal and will not be tolerated.**

Our emphasis will continue to be the protection of the defensive player. The same notice has been sent to the umpires with instructions to heighten their sensitivity to the potential dangers of this type of play with special emphasis placed on the integrity of the recreational nature of the adult softball program

**Coaches, it is your responsibility to convey this important information to your players. Co-Rec coaches, please stress common sense base running with your male players.**

### ***BASE RUNNING RULES AND REGULATIONS***

#### **Interference:**

It is the responsibility of the base runner to avoid contact with the ball and/or defensive player and not interfere in any way with the completion of the play. Contact is not always necessary – arm waving may be interference. Result: base runner will be called out.

Any defensive player who, in the opinion of the umpire, deliberately throws the ball at a base runner will be ejected, with the strong possibility of further penalties after the incident is reviewed. This type of play will not be tolerated.

#### **Roll Block:**

The roll block and /or take out slide is illegal. All base runners must slide directly to the base and /or attempt to avoid all contact with the defensive player. This type of play can be very dangerous and will not be tolerated in Tempe Parks and Recreation leagues. The penalty is ejection with the strong possibility of additional penalties after the incident has been reviewed.

Thanks for your continued support. Feel free to contact me with comments or suggestions at 480-350-5218 or [larry\\_west@tempe.gov](mailto:larry_west@tempe.gov)

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